

KANSAS LEGISLATURE.

Tuesday, February 24.—The following communication was received from the secretary of the state board of agriculture in compliance with Senate resolution No. 37, was read and referred to the committee on agriculture, which is as follows:

Hon. A. G. Stacy, Secretary of the Senate:

Sir:—In compliance with the request of the Senate in the form of a resolution which you have transmitted to us, we beg leave very respectfully to submit the following information in answer to questions set forth in the resolution:

Information asked for concerning the Kansas state board of agriculture:

First—When was the Kansas state board of agriculture organized?

In 1873 the state agricultural society was merged into the state board of agriculture. See paragraph 6349, general statutes 1889.

Second—How was it first organized, and is it a chartered institution?

The state agricultural society organized in 1862, out of which the state board of agriculture was created, was a chartered corporation.

Third—How are members and officers elected?

The members and officers are elected by ballot by the state board of agriculture, together with so many of the authorized delegates of the county and district agricultural societies as may be in attendance at the annual meeting. See paragraph 6251 A, general statutes 1889.

Fourth—Who are eligible to membership?

Any citizen of the state of Kansas who has the right to vote is eligible to membership of the board; and any county in the state which organizes a county or district agricultural society, whose secretary performs certain duties required by law, is entitled to a delegate to the annual meeting, and has a voice in the election of officers and members of the board. See paragraph 6250, general statutes 1889.

The total amount of money appropriated by the state in the last four years.

Appropriations for carrying on the work of the Kansas state board of agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891.

1888.	
Salary of secretary	\$2,000
Clerk hire	2,000
Postage, expressage, freight, telegraphing	1,500
Expenses of members of the board	500
Contingent fund	500
Total	\$7,500

1889.—BIENNIAL YEAR.	
Salary of secretary	\$2,000
Clerk hire	2,000
Postage, expressage, freight, telegraphing	1,500
Extra	2,500
Expenses of members of the board	500
Contingent fund	500
Total	\$10,000

1890.	
Salary of secretary	\$2,000
Clerk hire	2,000
Postage, expressage, freight, telegraphing	1,500
Expenses of members of the board	750
Contingent fund	500
Total	\$7,750

1891.—BIENNIAL YEAR.	
Salary of secretary	\$2,000
Clerk hire	2,000
Postage, expressage, freight, telegraphing	1,500
Expenses of members of the board	750
Contingent fund	500
Total	\$8,000

Appropriations for issuing seventh biennial report not yet made.

The total cost of printing for the Kansas state board of agriculture during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1891:

1888	\$6,210.17
1889	5,000.20
1889 20,000 copies 6th biennial report	43,153.94
Total	\$54,364.31

1890	5,146.55
1891 (estimated)	8,146.55
1891 30,000 copies 7th biennial report	20,000.00
Total	\$33,293.10

The law requires the state board of agriculture to publish five thousand (5,000) copies of the biennial report, but by concurrent resolution, the Legislature of 1887 ordered the publication of twenty thousand (20,000) copies of the sixth biennial report, thus increasing the cost of printing bill for 1889, thirty-two thousand two hundred and

fifty (\$32,250) dollars.

In like manner the Legislature of 1889, ordered the publication of twenty thousand (20,000) copies of the seventh biennial report, increasing the cost of printing for the present year fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars. Respectfully,
M. Moulton,
Secretary.

There were four bills introduced, No. 383 having the following title:

By Senator Long: Senate bill No. 384, An act to prohibit any office holder under the constitution and laws of the state of Kansas, from being or becoming during his incumbency in such office, the agent, servant, employee, promoter, representative, attorney, legal adviser, counsellor, officer, director or manager of any corporation.

In the House, House bill No. 707 (substitute for House bill No. 110,) an act relating to railroads, to establish a board of railroad commissioners, to prescribe maximum passenger rates, to prohibit passes on railroads, and to provide penalties, and for other purposes was read the third time, and the question asked, shall the bill pass? the roll was called with the following result: Yeas 83, nays 26.

The following gentlemen voted in the affirmative: Messrs. Alexander, Barnett, Bryden, Campbell, Castor, Chubb, Cleveland, Clover, Cobun, Coons, Cory, Coulson, Crumley, Day, Dickson, Dolan, Donovan, Doolittle, Doty, Doubleday, Drake, Dumbauld, Duncan, Everly, Fisher, Fortney, Goodvin, Hardick, Hardy, Harner, Harvey, Helmich, Hickox, Hicks, Howart, Hurt, Ingram, Jackson, Jones of Cherokee, Kenton, Lewis, Leedy, Lovitt, Lupfer, Maddox, Matchett, Maxwell, McCliman, McConkey, McKinnie, Meeker, Milligan, Mitchell, Morris, Morrison, Newman, Pearson of Pratt, Reid, Rehrig, Rodgers of Washington, Rogers of Marion, Rowe, Ruble, Reckards, Scott, Senn, Shull, Smith of Neosho, Smith of Smith, Soupene, Stanley, Steele, Stevens, Steward, Tanner, Templeton, Tucker, Vall, Wagner, Watson, Whittington and Mr. Speaker Elder. Total, 38.

The following gentlemen voted in the negative: Messrs. Atherton, Brown of Harvey, Craig, Douglass, Gable, Gilmore, Heber, Hoover, King, Milner, Neeley, Nixon, Pierson of Allen, Phinney, Pratt, Reeder, Remington, Rice of Bourbon, Seaton, Showalter, Stahl, Warren, Webb, Willard, Williamson and York. Total, 26.

A constitutional majority having voted in favor of the passage of the bill, the bill passed and the title was agreed to.

Mr. Showalter explained his vote as follows:

MR. SPEAKER:—I vote no, for the following reasons:

First—I do not believe that three cents a mile is an excessive or unfair passenger rate in the state of Kansas, all things considered.

Second—The railroads, so far as I know, have not complained of the pass system, nor are they demanding its abolishment.

Third—The abolishment of the pass system will not, in my judgment, materially increase the profits of railroad corporations, as claimed by the advocates of this bill.

Ten bills were introduced, No. 808 has the following title:

By committee on labor:—House bill No. 808, An act amending sections 5963 and 5964 of article 6 of chapter 39 of the general statutes of 1889, entitled "An act creating a bureau of labor and industrial statistics, and defining the powers and duties of same, and fixing the salary of the commissioner."

The House passed the following Senate concurrent resolution No. 24:

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein, That the president of the senate and speaker of the House are hereby directed to select forthwith three members from each House, and that the Commercial club of Kansas City is hereby requested to select a like number; the persons so selected to constitute a local executive committee, whose duty it shall be

to perfect the necessary arrangements for the commercial congress of western agricultural and mining states, to extend invitations to leading commercial organizations in the states embraced in the call, to invite distinguished citizens to attend and participate in the deliberations, and to arrange a suitable programme for said congress.

Resolved, That the delegates of each state and territory embraced in the call be requested to name from each state and territory a member of the executive committee, and to report such name at the earliest date to the secretary of the Kansas City commercial club.

The following is the history of the state school text bill:

House bill No. 712, An act to provide for a uniform series of school text-books by publication or otherwise, and for the distribution thereof; repealing any act or portion thereof in conflict with this act, was read the third time, and the question being, Shall the bill pass? the roll was called, with the following result: Yeas 71, nays 40.

The following gentlemen voted in the affirmative: Messrs. Bryden, Carey, Cleveland, Cobun, Coons, Cory, Crumley, Day, Dickson, Dolan, Donovan, Doolittle, Doubleday, Douglass, Drake, Dumbauld, Duncan, Everly, Fisher, Fortney, Goodvin, Hardy, Hartenbower, Helmich, Hickox, Hicks, Hoover, Hopkins, Howard, Hurt, Ingram, Jones of Butler, Jones of Cherokee, Kenton, Lewis, Lovett, Lupfer, Maddox, McCliman, McKinnie, Meeker, Mitchell, Morris, Morrison, Newman, Pearson of Allen, Pierson of Pratt, Reed, Rehrig, Rice of Bourbon, Rodgers of Washington, Rogers of Marion, Rood, Rowe, Ruble, Reckards, Scott, Shull, Smith of Neosho, Soupene, Stephens, Tanner, Templeton, Vall, Vandeventer, Whittington, York and Mr. Speaker Elder. Total, 71.

The following gentlemen voted in the negative: Messrs. Alexander, Atherton, Barnett, Bayer, Blahoff, Brown of Harvey, Brown of Wilson, Caster, Chubb, Coulson, Craig, Doty, Gable, Hardick, Harner, Hartenbower, Heber, Helmich, Hollenbach, Jackson, King, Matchett, Milligan, Milner, Neeley, Nixon, Phinney, Reeder, Rice of Coffey, Seaton, Senn, Showalter, Stahl, Stanley, Steele, Steward, Tucker, Warren, Watson, Webb, Willard and Williamson. Total, 40.

Mr. Wagner changed his vote from nay to yea.

The following explanations were entered upon the journal:

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF MR. RICE, OF BOURBON, ON HOUSE BILL, NO. 712.

MR. SPEAKER:—I am not satisfied with the details of this measure for which the majority of this House is responsible, and am opposed to the state undertaking the publication of school books; but being in favor of state uniformity, or a system equivalent thereto, and believing that the prices charged for school books are too high, and being opposed to all organized and oppressive trusts, I vote "aye," as a protest against existing conditions.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF MR. WATSON.

MR. SPEAKER:—I expect to be criticised on my vote on House bill No. 712; I therefore desire to explain my vote: I would be glad to vote for a uniform system to text-books published by the state "at cost," but I consider this bill defective, and its machinery impracticable; I am therefore compelled to vote "no."

Mr. Douglas offered the following resolution which was adopted.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed by the speaker to examine all general bills on the calendar, and report to the House—

1st. A list of the bills on the calendar of greatest public importance, arranging them for the consideration of the House in the order of their importance.

2d. A list of bills which, in the opinion of the committee, will give rise to no debate, which bills shall also be arranged in the

order of their importance; and that said committee report to the House within three days.

The committee appointed are Messrs. Douglass, Reckard, Bryden, Doolittle, Milner, Crumley and Caster.

The committee appointed on the part of the House to confer with the commercial club of Kansas City, Missouri, with reference to the coming inter-state congress, were Messrs. Shull, Dumbauld and Douglass.

Mr. Webb was added to the committee on printing.

Wednesday, February 25.—Senator Harkness offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, The House of Representatives of the state of Kansas did, on the 11th day of February, 1891, adopt the following preamble and resolutions, to wit:

Whereas, The state of Kansas has been expending large sums of money during the past few years in the erection of a state house at the city of Topeka under the direction of the board of state house commissioners; and

Whereas, There are grave rumors afloat as to the manner in which said large sums of money have been expended, charging gross negligence in the making of contracts, and in making allowance for extra work and material used upon said building, and corrupt practices upon the part of the members of the said board and contractors and employees upon said building, and misappropriation of said funds; and

Whereas, Litigation, growing out of contracts upon said building in the courts of this state, has given the color of truth to such rumors; and

Whereas, It is openly charged that members of the said board of state house commissioners are carried upon the roll of employees, and have been receiving pay for services out of said funds other than salaries allowed by law; and

Whereas, There are serious rumors of corrupt practices and misappropriation of moneys by members of the board and their employees, the disbursement of which is entrusted by law to other boards created under the laws of this state, therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Kansas, That a committee of five be appointed to investigate such charges, with full power to send for persons or papers, to diligently inquire into the truth of such rumors and charges, and report the facts to said House of Representatives at its earliest convenience.

Resolved, That the attorney general be requested to appear before said committee and assist in the examination of witnesses, and in the conduct of said examination.

And said committee was duly appointed; and

Whereas, Said resolutions contain very serious statements respecting the expenditure of the public money of the state; and the Senate of the State of Kansas being as fully interested in the subject of said investigation as the House, and having been ignored; and

Whereas, The committee appointed by said House has refused to permit the persons charged in said preamble and resolution to be heard in person or by counsel, although requested to so do; and

Whereas, It is important to the people of the state that a full, fair, impartial and open examination be made into the affairs of the state pertaining to the management of the state house, and the expenditures of money thereon; therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the state of Kansas, That the committee on state affairs be directed to investigate each and every transaction of the state house commissioners pertaining to the construction of said state house and the works, acts, and performances of the contractors, and the specific charges contained in said resolutions, going back to the last date covered by the investigation of the same subjects by the committee of the Legislature in the year 1889; and that the chairman of said committee be authorized to administer oaths and send for persons and papers and give the same a thorough investigation, reporting the evidence and their findings to the Senate at as